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and orator, he achieved distinction hardly inferior to his success as dramatist. Perhaps the most remarkable feature of his literary activity is the continuity of his artistic methods and the uninterrupted freshness of his language and his ideas. His last play, published only a year before his death, was one of his most distinguished successes on the stage. With such an example we may well cry, "There are giants in these days."

Even the briefest sketch of Björnstjerne Björnson is incomplete without some mention of the singular charm of the man. With his family and his friends he was the embodiment of sympathy and good cheer. His later home at Aulestad was seldom without guests and for each there was a warm welcome that evidently came right from the heart. Great as was Björnson the writer, Björnson the man was still greater.

DANIEL KILHAM DODGE.

LIFE OF GARRET AUGUSTUS HOBART, TWENTY-FOURTH VICE-PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES. By David Magie, D.D. New York: G. P. Putnam's Sons.

In the Republican National Convention held in St. Louis in June, 1896, a dominating influence in the adoption of a party platform was Garret A. Hobart, of New Jersey—up to that time practically unknown outside of his native state. This fact was widely commented upon when he received the unanimous nomination of the convention for the Vice-Presidency. But he was certainly well known, widely and favorably, when, the following September, his letter of acceptance of the nomination was published. That letter was universally acknowledged to be the clearest and tersest exposition of the great financial question which was the paramount issue of the campaign. Its writer rose above partisanship and entered the realm of statesmanship, and the letter inspired popular confidence in the principles enunciated in the platform and assured the election of McKinley and Hobart the following November. He became yet better known when on the fourth of March, 1897, he was inaugurated Vice-President and took his place as the Constitutional President of the Senate. He brought to that high position a clear conception of the greatness and importance of the office; and by the

modest dignity, but thoroughness and fidelity with which he discharged his duties as they had never before been discharged, he elevated the Vice-Presidency in the estimation of the people and made the office what the Constitution intended it to be. His influence in the National administration was potential and the whole nation recognized it, and felt safer, knowing what manner of man he was, and that he was the second official in the government and the confidential adviser of the President. No sooner had he been inducted into his high office than great national events thrust the onerous duties of a statesman upon him. All these extraordinary duties he discharged with an ability that surprised and gratified the entire country, and when he was forced to leave the Senate by the illness which proved fatal in November, 1899, he was the greatest individual force of the national government. When he died at the age of fifty-five, he was sincerely lamented by the Nation.

Yet his life had little to offer as inspiration for the biographer. It was remarkably uneventful. Its even tenor was little disturbed until within a few years of its close. But it was a good life, clean and wholesome from beginning to end, filled with good deeds unostentatiously performed, a life in which every daily task was fulfilled with fidelity, in which every honor came unsought; a life which made the world the better. As such it might well serve as an inspiration to the young men of the land. The task of writing this biography has been fulfilled most happily, not by a skilled writer of history, nor by one who was prominent in political affairs, but by the pastor (recently deceased) who writes with a loving sympathy for the man and citizen of blameless life, but nevertheless with an intelligent appreciation of the circumstances which provided the occasion for Mr. Hobart's admirable qualities of heart and mind to become of lasting benefit to his country. A. H. N.

GEORGE ELIOT: *Scenes and People in her Novels.* By Charles S. Olcott. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co.

A student of conscience and interested chiefly in the development of the soul, George Eliot, at first thought, seems far removed in her work from the "localized romance" of Walter